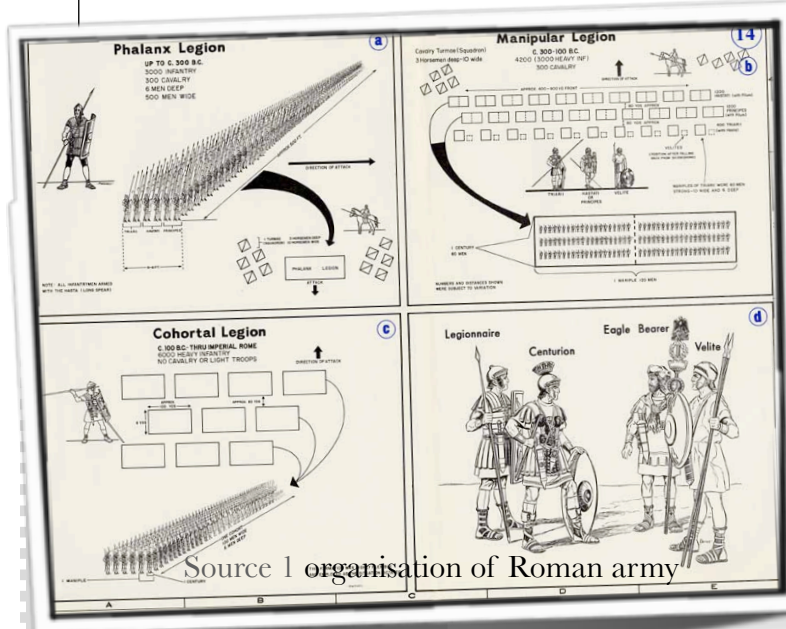


Unit question: WHY DOES A CIVILIZATION BECOME GREAT?

What role did the Roman army play?

WORKING WITH EVIDENCE

to find information
to analyze information
to compare and contrast



Source 1 organisation of Roman army

Organisation :

The Romans were able to expand their empire because of the strength of the Roman Army. It was the first full time professional army in the world. Any Roman citizen between the age of 17 and 46 could be called up to serve as a soldier.

Soldiers were organized into

large group called legions. A legion was made up of about 5000 men.

Some wars were fought with 27 legions!

The officer commanding a legion was called the legate. Each legion had its own number or name.

For example; It might be called "Victorious Lightning".

Each legion was divided into 10 cohorts. Each cohort was divided into 6 centuries. Each century was divided into 10 groups of 8 men who marched, fought, worked and camped together.

Each century had its own standard, called a signum.



Auxiliaries

Most of the fighting was actually done by 'auxiliaries'. These were not Roman citizens but came from tribes that had become part of the empire. Many were cavalry soldiers. When they retired they were made citizens

Legions were heavy infantry units which formed the backbone of ancient Roman armies. Their systematic approach to war gave them a great advantage over their enemies.

Strong and healthy soldiers

The Romans had a clear idea about the importance of fitness and health for their soldiers

The legionnaires were well-bathed, well-fed, well-trained, and when not fighting, were

employed to build roads, camps, aqueducts, and fortifications. A high sense of pride was maintained by all individual Roman soldiers, in particular for their legionary service records.

Centurion's helmet



Source 2

Vegetius, a Roman civil servant wrote an army hand book 400 AD

Soldiers must not remain too long near unhealthy marshes and must not drink swampy water. Daily exercise is better than any doctor... A young soldier should be broad chested with powerful shoulders and strong arms. He should not be potbellied or have a fat bottom... Fishermen, bird-catchers and all those who do the kind of jobs that women normally do, should be kept away from the army. On the other hand carpenters, butchers, and hunters of deer and wild boar are most suitable.

Training

Soldiers were taught how to march and keep up with others. Much of the early training involved swimming, running, jumping and drill. Drill or **armatura** involved learning how to use weapons and battle techniques. Those who failed to reach a satisfactory standard had their food ration reduced as a form of punishment.

During field training, soldiers were expected to march up to 30 kilometers with a full backpack, which weighed anything from 20-40 kilograms. A legionary or marching soldier wore full armor and carried a full backpack and personal weapons.

Competition for promotion among the soldiers was intense. A rise to the rank of centurion

(commander) was highly sought after because it was well paid and respected.

Discipline

The Roman army had a very strict discipline. A soldier could be punished severely if he lost his equipment in battle, breached any morality such as lying or stealing, or boasted of deeds performed in battle. Soldiers, who broke important rules were put to death as an example to other legionaries. The unfortunate soldier who, for example fell asleep during guard duty would be beaten or stoned by his fellow soldiers.

Strength of body and character made Romans good soldiers. Strict discipline enabled them to march for days, subsisting on little food and water, and trained them to obey orders to the death without thought of retreat or surrender.

Source 3

A Roman writer described how soldiers were treated if they were guilty of serious offense. 'An officer takes a stick (baton) and simply touches the soldier with it. This is a sign to all the other soldiers that they must stone or beat him to death.'

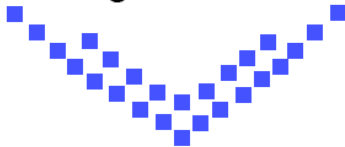
Battle formation and tactics

Source 4

Vegetius a Roman Civil servant writes in his book about the Army in 400 AD *The Roman legion is victorious because of its numbers of soldiers and the tactics it uses. It is also well equipped.*



Pig's Head



Source 5

Julius Caesar describes a Roman attack *'our soldiers cleared a way by using slings, arrows and other tools. The enemy were disturbed by the shape of our ships, by the beating of the oars and by our equipment. The enemy stood still and then took a few steps backward. The moment our men got a steady foothold an land they made a mass attack and made the enemy run away*
Julius Caesar, the Gallic Wars 52-44 BC.

The tortoise or testudo was a essentially defensive formation by which the legionaries would hold their shields overhead, except for the front rows, thereby creating a kind of shell-like armor shielding them against missiles from the front or above.

The wedge or pig head was commonly used by attacking legionaries, - legionaries formed up in a triangle, the front 'tip' being one man and pointing toward the enemy, -this enabled small groups to be thrust well into the enemy and, when these formations expanded, the enemy troops were pushed to the sides and separated. The wedge was an aggressive formation used to 'crack open' enemy lines. Breaking the enemy's formation was very often the key to winning a battle. Therefore, the wedge formation was vitally important battlefield tactic of the Roman army.



Repel Cavalry

The order to repel cavalry by Roman army officers brought about a defensive formation, in which the front rank formed a tight wall of shields with their pila (spears) protruding to form a line of spearheads ahead of the wall.

The orb is a defensive position in the shape of a circle taken by a unit in desperate straits. It allows for a reasonably effective defense even if parts of an army have been divided in battle and would have required a very high level discipline by the individual soldiers.



Equipment and weapons

All clothing was military standard, so everyone would look uniform. The first of which was the Tunica. The next layer of clothing was much like a jacket, a cloak of sorts that was worn over the tunica. The Roman soldier had military sandals to were well-ventilated, strong leather sandals with leather straps.



The first of which was the Tunica. The next layer of clothing was much like a jacket, a cloak of sorts that was worn over the tunica. The Roman soldier had military sandals to were well-ventilated, strong leather

They had iron hob-nails protruding through the sole for extra

grip and to be more hard-wearing.

Source 6

Offensive weapons

Spears.

The spears (pila) were constructed to bend once inside the enemy. That way the enemy could not pull them out or re-use them for their own needs.

Gladius.

This was the basic short sword that was good for close attacks.



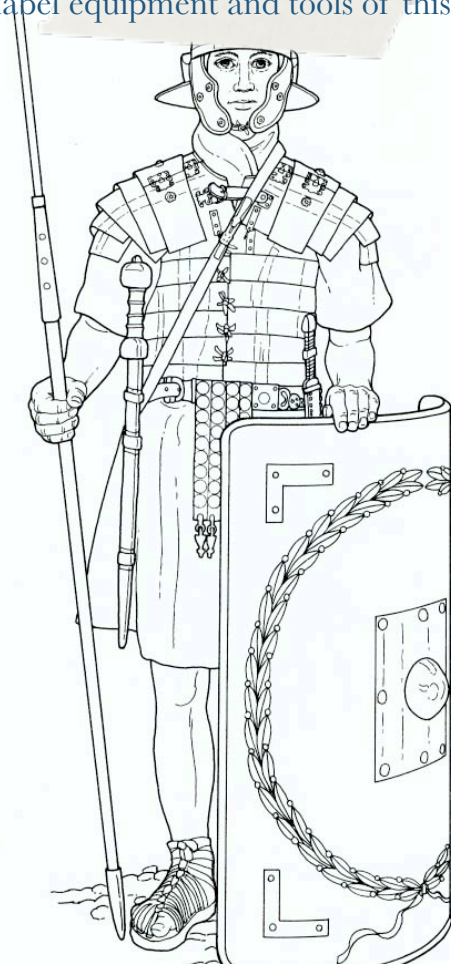
Source 7 Defensive tools

The Lorica, also known as the breastplate, was built to withstand frontal attack.

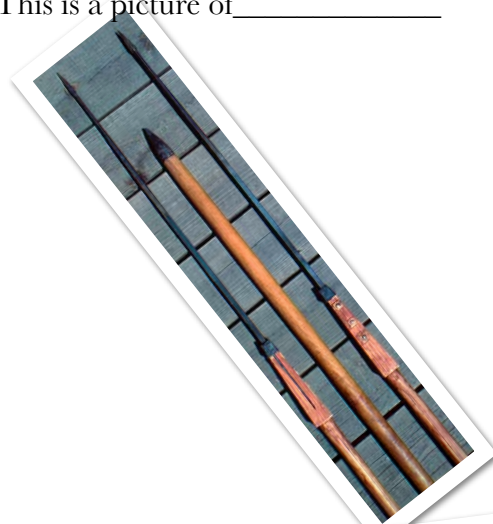
The Galea, Latin for helmet, was made to prevent crushing blows to the head and face.

The most important of the three however was the Scutum. This shield was used to ward off attack in close battle, and utilized for many other protection schemes.

TASK : label equipment and tools of this legionary and give the pictures subtitles



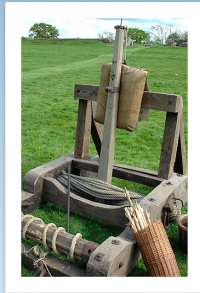


This is a picture of _____



This picture shows _____

Source 8 Roman war machines

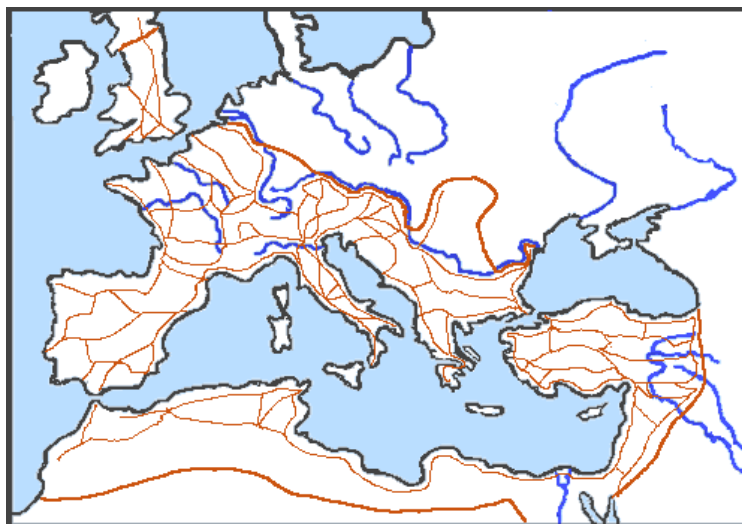
BATTERING RAM	SIEGE TOWER	CATAPULTS
		
Having gained access to a wall the soldiers began breaking it down using the battering ram.	Siege Towers were built larger than the wall they were attacking. The upper part housed archers and a small catapult.	Catapults were used to smash things using heavy rocks.

Communication

The army could move so quickly, because soldiers built first-class roads. When the Romans arrived in new lands they found just tracks or footpaths which avoided natural obstacles like woods, hills and marshes. The Romans did not avoid natural obstacles but cut down woods, cut into hillsides and marshes

to make their roads as straight as possible. This meant that troops could travel quickly from place to place.

Source 9 A map showing all the roads of the Roman empire



Source 10 From a description praising the Roman Army by the Roman writer Josephus (37BCE- 93 CE)

‘.....they do not wait for the outbreak of war nor do they sit with folded hands in peacetime only to out them in motion in the hour of need. On the contrary as though they had been born with weapons in hand, they never have a rest from training, never wait for emergencies to rise..... each soldier daily throws all his energy into his drill... their perfect discipline made them go together like a single body so compact are their ranks..so quick their ears for orders, their eyes for signals their tasks.’

Task sheet:

Get information from reading: What do these words mean?

- *legionaries*
- *centurion*
- *cohort*
- *auxiliary*
- *Testudo*
- *Offensive*
- *Defensive*

Discuss: in pairs: discuss different reasons why the Roman army was so effective.

List the different reasons you have found in the table below and give a number of importance.

EXAMPLE: GOOD LOOKS	1

Working with sources: There are 10 sources in this text

Highlight their numbers.

Then on a sheet of paper, make a list of primary and a list of secondary sources.

Read source 2:

What type of men does the writer of source 2 want for the Roman army?

Can you explain why?

Source 3

What was the punishment? How do you feel about this?

Why do you think the army rules were so strict?

Sources 4 and 5

What reason for the army's success does source 4 give?

Does source 5 give the same reason or support source 4? Explain your answer with words from the source.

Source 10:

Who wrote it? What does it say about the Roman Army? Can you trust this writer? Explain why or why not.